1079 c.

THE *Sleeping Beauty* IN THE WOOD. A TALE.

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THE *Sleeping Beauty.*

THERE was formerly in a distant country a King and a Queen, the most beautiful and happy pair in the universe, having nothing to allay their joy but the want of children to participate in the pleasures they enjoyed. This was all their concern, physicians, waters, vows, and offerings were tried, but all to no purpose. At last, however, the Queen proved with-child, and in due time was brought to-bed of a daughter. At the christening the princess had seven fairies for her god-mothers, which was all they could find in the whole kingdom, that every one of them might give her a gift.

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The chriſtening being over, a grand feaſt was prepared to entertain and thank the fairies: before each of them was placed a magnificent cover, with a caſe of maſſy gold, wherein were a ſpoon, a knife, and fork of pure gold, and exquiſite workmanſhip, ſet with divers precious ſtones; but as they were all ſitting down at the table, they ſee come into the hall a very old Fairy, whom they had not invited, becauſe it was near fifty years ſince ſhe had been out of a certain tower, and was thought to have been either dead or enchanted.

The King ordered a cover, but he could not furniſh her with a caſe of gold as the others had, becauſe he had only ſeven made for the ſeven fairies. The old fairy fancied ſhe was ſlighted, by not being treated in the ſame manner as the reſt, and murmured out ſome threats between her teeth.

One of the young Fairies ſat by her, overheard how ſhe grumbled, and judging that ſhe might give the little princeſs ſome unlucky gift, ſhe went as

ſoon as they aroſe from the table, and hid herſelf behind the hangings, that ſhe might ſpeak laſt, and repair as much as poſſible ſhe could, the evil which the old Fairy might intend.

In the mean time all the fairies began to give their gifts unto the Princeſs in the following manner:

The youngeſt gave her for a gift, that ſhe ſhould be the moſt beautiful perſon in the world.

The ſecond, That ſhe ſhould have wit like an angel.

The third, That ſhe ſhould have beauty beyond compare.

The fourth, That ſhe ſhould have a wonderful grace in every thing that ſhe did.

The fifth, That ſhe ſhould dance perfectly well.

And the ſixth, That ſhe ſhould play on all kinds of muſick to the utmoſt perfection.

The old Fairy's turn coming next, ſhe advanced forward, and with a ſhaking head, which ſeemed to ſhow more ſpite than age, ſhe ſaid, That the Princeſs ſhould

ſhould have her hand pierced with a ſpindle, and die of the wound.

This terrible gift made the whole company tremble, and every body fell to crying.

At th s very inſtant the young Fairy came out from behind the curtain, and ſpake theſe words aloud, Aſſure yourſelves O King and Queen, that your daughter ſhall not die of this diſaſter; it is true, I have no power to undo what my elder has done. The Princeſs ſhall indeed pierce her hand with a ſpindle; but inſtead of dying, ſhe ſhall only fall into a profound ſleep, which ſhall laſt an hundred years; at the expiration of which a King's ſon ſhall come and awake her from it.

The King to avoid this misfortune told by the old ſplenatick and malicious fairy, cauſed immediately his royal proclamation to be iſſued forth, whereby every body was forbidden upon pain of death, to ſpin with a diſtaff or ſpindle; nay, even ſo much as to have a ſpindle in any of their houſes.

About

About fifteen or ſixteen years after, the King and Queen being gone to one of their houſes of pleaſure, the young princeſs happened one day to divert herſelf in going up from one apartment to another, ſhe at length came into a little room on the top of a Tower, where a good old woman, all alone was ſpinning with her ſpindle.

This good woman had not heard of the King's proclamation iſſued forth againſt ſpindles.

What are you doing of there, Goody? ſaid the Princeſs? — I am ſpinning, my pretty child, ſaid the old woman, who did not know who ſhe was. —— Ha! ſaid the Princeſs, this is very pretty; how do you do to it? give it me, that I may ſee if I can do ſo. The old woman, to ſatisfy the child's curioſity, granted her requeſt. She had no ſooner taken it in her hand, than, whether being very haſty at it, ſomewhat unhandy, or that the decree of the ſpiteful fairy had ordained it, is not to be certainly aſcertained; but however it immediately ran into her hand, and ſhe directly

directly fell down upon the ground into a ſwoon.

The good old woman not knowing what to do in this affair, cried out for help. People came in from every quarter in great numbers; ſome threw water upon the Princeſs's face, unlaced her, ſtruck her on the palms of her hands, and rubbed her temples with Hungary Water; but all they could do could not bring her to herſelf.

The good Fairy who had ſaved her life by condemning her to ſleep an hundred years, was in the kingdom of Matakin, twelve thouſand leagues off when this accident befel the Princeſs; but ſhe was inſtantly informed of it by a little dwarf, who had boots of ſeven leagues, that is boo's with which he could tread over ſeven leagues of ground at one ſtride. The Fairy left the kingdom immediately, and arrived at the palace about an hour after, in a fiery chariot, drawn by dragons.

The king handed her out of the chariot, and ſhe approved every thing he had done,

done; but as she had a very great fore-sight, she thought, when the Princess should awake, she might not know what to do with herself, being all alone in this old palace, and this was what she did; she touched with her wand every thing in the palace except the King and his Queen, Governesses, Maids of Honour, Ladies of the Bed Chamber, Gentlemen, Officers, Stewards, Cooks, under Cooks, and Scullions; Guards with their Beef-Eater, Pages, and Footmen. She likewise touched all the horses which were in the stables, as well Pads as others, the great dogs in the outward court, and the pretty little Mopsey too, the Princess's little Spaniel Bitch, which lay by her on the bed.

Immediately upon her touching them they all fell asleep, that they might not wake before their mistress, and that they might be ready to wait on her when she wanted them. The very spits at the fire as full as they could hold of partridges and pheasants, and every thing in the palace, whether animate or inanimate, did fall asleep also.

All

All this was done in a moment; for Fairies are not long in doing their buſineſs. — And now the King and Queen having kiſſed their dear child, without waking her, went out of the palace, and put forth a proclamation, that no body ſhould dare to come near it. This however was unneceſſary, for in leſs than a quarter of an hour there grew up all round about the park, ſuch a vaſt number of trees, great and ſmall buſhes and brambles, twining one with another, that neither men nor beaſt could paſs through, ſo that nothing could be ſeen but the very tops of the tower of the palace; and not that too, unleſs it was a good way off. No body doubted but the Fairy gave therein a very extraordinary ſample of her art, that the Princeſs, while ſhe continued ſleeping, might have nothing to fear from any curious people.

Thus the old Fairy's words came true,
And what ſhe did foretel;
Yet time will ſhew this piece of ſpite,
Work'd for the Princeſs well.

When

When an hundred years were gone and paſt, the ſon of a King then reigning, and who was of another family from that of the ſleeping Princeſs, being out a hunting on that ſide of the country, aſked what thoſe towers were which he ſaw in the middle of a great thick wood? Every one anſwered according as he had heard: ſome ſaid, It was an old ruinous caſtle, haunted by ſpirits; others, That all the ſorcerers and witches of the country kept their Sabbath or Weekly Meeting in that place.

The moſt common opinion was, That an Ogree* lived there, and that he carried thither all the little children he could catch, that he might eat them up at his leiſure, without any body's being able to follow him, as having himſelf only power to paſs through the wood.

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* An Ogree is a Giant with long teeth and claws, with a raw Head and bloody Bones, and runs away with little naughty boys and girls, and eats them all up.

The Prince was at a ſtand, not knowing what to believe, when an aged man ſpoke to him thus:

"May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

"It is above fifty years ſince I heard from my father, who heard my grandfather ſay, That there then was in this caſtle a princeſs, the moſt beauiful was ever ſeen, that ſhe muſt ſleep there an an hundred years, and ſhould be waked a King's Son, for whom ſhe was reved.

The young Prince was all on fire at theſe words, believing, without conſidering the matter, that he could put an end to this rare adventure; and puſhed on by love and honour, reſolved that moment to look into it.

Scarce had he advanced towards the wood, when all the great trees the buſhes and brambles gave way of their own accord, and let him paſs through; he went up to the caſtle, which he ſaw at the end of a large avenue, which he went into; and what a little ſurpriſed him, was, that he ſaw none of his people could follow him, becauſe the trees cloſed again

ſo

so soon as he had passed through them. However, he did not cease from valiantly continuing his way; he came into a spacious outward court, where every thing he saw might have frozen up the most fearless person with horror. There was all over the place a most horrid silence; the image of death every where shewed itself, and there was nothing to be seen but stretched out bodies of men and animals, all seeming to be dead. He however, very well knew by the ruby faces and pimple noses of the beefeaters, that they were only asleep, and their goblets, in which still remained some few drops of wine, plainly shewed they all fell asleep in their cups.

He then crossed a court paved with marble, went up stairs, and came into the guard-chamber, where the guards were standing in their ranks, with muskets upon their shoulders, and snoring as loud as they could. After that he went through several rooms full of gentlemen and Ladies, all asleep, some standing and others sitting. At last he came

into a chamber all gilt with gold; here he ſaw upon a bed, the curtains of which were all open, the fineſt ſight that ever he beheld; a Princeſs, who appeared to be about fifteen or ſixteen years of age, and whoſe bright, and in a manner reſplendant beauty had ſomewhat in it divine: he approached with trembling and admiration, and fell down before her on his knees.

And now as the enchantment was at an end, the Princeſs awaked, and looking on him with eyes more tender than the firſt view might ſeem to admit of: Is it you, my Prince? ſaid ſhe to him; you have waited a long time.

The Prince charmed with theſe words, and much more with the manner in which they were ſpoken, knew not how to ſhew his joy and gratitude; he aſſured her that he loved her better than himſelf. Their diſcourſe was not ſo well conducted, they did weep more than talk, little eloquence and a great deal of love. He was more at a loſs than ſhe, and we need not wonder at it; ſhe had time to think on what to ſay to him; for it is very probable, though

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the hiſtory mentions nothing of it, that the good Fairy, during ſo long a ſleep had given her very agreeable dreams. In ſhort, they talked four hours together, and yet ſaid not half what they had got to ſay.

In the mean time all in the palace awaked, every one thinking on his particular buſineſs; and as all of them were not in love, they were ready to die with hunger; the chief Lady of Honour; being as ſharp ſet as the others, grew very impatient, and told the Princeſs aloud, That ſupper was ſerved up. The Prince helped the Princeſs to riſe, ſhe was entirely dreſſed, and very magnificently; but his Royal Highneſs did not tell her that ſhe was dreſſed like his great grandfather, and had a point-band, peeping over a high collar; but however, ſhe looked not leſs beautiful and charming for all that.

They went into the great hall of looking-glaſſes, where they ſupped, and were ſerved by the Princeſs's officers; the violins and hautboys played old tunes, but very excellent, though it was now

above

above an hundred years ſince they had played; and after ſupper, without loſing any time, the Lord Almoner married them in the chapel of the caſtle, and the chief Lady of Honour drew the curtains. They had but very little ſleep, the Princeſs had no occaſion, and the Prince left her the next morning to return into the city, where his father had been in great pain for him.

The Prince told him he had loſt his way in the foreſt as he was hunting, and had lain at the cottage of a ſhepherd, who had given him ſome brown bread and cheeſe.

The King his father, who was a very good man, readily believed him; but his mother the queen could not be perſwaded that this was altogether true, and ſeeing that he went almoſt every day to hunting, and that he had always ſome excuſe ready for ſo doing, though he had laid out three or four days together, ſhe began to ſuſpect, and very juſtly too, his having ſome private amour in hand, of which he endeavoured that ſhe ſhould remain ignorant of.

Now

Now these frequent excursions which he then made from the palace, were that he retired to the princess, with whom he lived after this manner for above two years, and by whom he had two fine children, the eldest of which was a girl whom they named Morning; and the youngest a boy, which they named Day, because he was a great deal handsomer, and much more beautiful and comely than his sister.

The Queen's jealousy encreasing, she several times spoke to her son, desiring him to inform her after what manner he spent his time; alledging, That as he saw her so very uneasy concerning the matter he ought in duty to satisfy her; But he never dared to trust her with his secret, he feared her, though he loved her, for she was of the race of the Ogrees, and the King would certainly never have married her, had it not been for her vast riches.

It was whispered all about the court, That she had Ogerish inclination, and that whenever she saw any little children going by, she had all the difficulty in the world

world to refrain falling upon them; and so the Prince would never tell her one word.

But when the King was dead, which happened about two years afterwards, and he saw himself Lord and Master, he then openly declared his marriage, and went in great ceremony to conduct his Queen to the palace. They made a very magnificent entry into the capital city, she riding in a triumphal car, with her two children beside her.

Some time after the King went to make war with the Emperor Cantabute his neighbour.

He left the government of the kingdom to the Queen his Mother, and earnestly recommended to her care his wife and children. He was obliged to set out immediately, and continue his expedition all the summer. —— As soon as he was departed, the Queen sent for her daughter-in-law to come to her, and then sent her to a country house among the woods, that she might with more ease and secrecy gratify her most horid and beastly inclinations.

Some

Some few days after ſhe went to this country houſe herſelf, and calling for the Clerk of the Kitchen, ſaid to him I have a mind to eat little Morning for my dinner to-morrow.

Ah! Madam, cried the Clerk of the Kitchen in a ſurpriſe. — No excuſe, replied ſhe, interrupting him, I will have it ſo; and this ſhe ſpoke in the tone of an Ogreſs, ſeeming to have a ſtrong deſire to taſte freſh meat; and to make the diſh more delicious, added ſhe, I will eat her with ſauſe Robert*

The poor man knowing very well how dangerous it was to play his tricks with Ogreſſes, took his great knife, and went up into little Morning's chamber; ſhe was then four years old, and came up to him jumping and laughing, to take him about the neck, and aſked him for ſome ſugar-candy; on which he began to weep, the great

* This is French ſauce, made up with onions, ſhred and boiled tender in butter; to which is added vinegar, muſtard, ſalt, pepper, and a little wine.

great knife fell out of his hand, and he went into the back yard and killed a little lamb and dreſſed it, with ſuch good ſauce, that his miſtreſs aſſured him ſhe had never eaten any thing ſo good in all her life.

He had at the ſame time taken up little Morning, and carried her to his wife, in order that ſhe might be concealed in a lodging he had at the bottom of the court-yard.

The Queen's lacivious appetite, according to her own apprehenſions, being once humoured, ſhe again began to long for another dainty bit: accordingly a few days after ſhe again called for the Clerk of the Kitchen, and told him that ſhe intended that night to ſup upon little Day. He anſwered never a word, being reſolved to cheat her as he had done before. He went out to find little Day, and ſaw him with a little foil in his hand, with which he was fencing with a great monkey, the child being but three years of age; he took him up in his arms, and carried him to his wife, that ſhe might conceal him in her chamber along with

his after, and in the room of little Day cooked up a young kid, very tender, and which the Ogreſs praiſed as much as the former, ſaying, it was wonderous nice.

All hitherto was mighty well; but a few evenings after this craving Ogreſs ſaid to the Clerk of the Kitchen, I will alſo eat the young Queen with the ſame ſauce I had with her children.

Now was the critical time that the poor Clerk deſpaired of being able to deceive her.

The young Queen was turned of twenty years of age, (not counting the hundred ſhe had been aſleep) though her ſkin was ſomewhat tough, yet fair and beautiful; and how to find in the yard a beaſt ſo firm, was what puzzled him, and made him at a loſs.

He then took a reſolution that he muſt ſave his own life, and cut the Queen's throat; and going into her chamber, with an intent to do it once, he put himſelf into as great fury as he could, and went into the young Queen's room with his dagger in his hand. However, his humanity would not allow him to

ſurpriſe

ſurpriſe her, but he told her with a great deal of reſpect, the orders he had from the Queen her mother.—Do it, ſaid ſhe, ſtretching out her neck, execute your orders, and then I ſhall go and ſee my children; my dear children, which I ſo tenderly and dearly loved: For ſhe verily thought them dead ever ſince they had been taken away from her.—No, no, fair Princeſs, cried the humane Clerk of the Kitchen, all in tears, you ſhall not die; and yet you ſhall ſee your children again; but then you ſhall go home with me to my lodgings, where I have concealed them, and I ſhall deceive the Queen once more, by giving her another kid in your ſtead.

Upon this he forthwith conducted her to his chamber, where leaving her to embrace her children, and cry along with them, he went and dreſſed a young kid, which the Queen eat for ſupper, and devoured it with the ſame appetite, as if it had been the young Queen.

Now ſhe was exceedingly delighted with this unheard of unparallelled cruelty, and ſhe had invented a ſtory to tell the

King

King at his return, how the mad wolves had eaten up the Queen his wife with her two children.

One evening some time after, as she was, according to her custom, rambling about the court, and the offices of the palace, to see if she could smell any fresh meat, she heard in a ground room little Day crying, for his mother was going to whip him, because he had been guilty of some fault; and she heard at the same time little Morning follicitting for a pardon for her brother.

The Ogress presently knew the voice of her and her children, and being quite in a rage to think she had been thus deceived, she commanded the next morning by break of day (in a most horrible voice which made every one to tremble) that they should bring into the middle of the great court, a very large tub, the which she caused to be filled with toads, vipers, snakes, and all sorts of serpents, in order to have thrown in it the Queen and her children, the Clerk of the Kitchen, his wife, and maid; all whom she had given orders to be brought thither with their hands

hands tied behind them, to ſuffer the vengeance of the incenſed Ogreſs.

They were brought out accordingly, and the executioners were juſt going to throw them into the tub, when the King who was not ſo ſoon expected, entered the court on horſeback, for he came poſt, and aſked with the utmoſt aſtoniſhment what was the meaning of that moſt horrible ſpectacle? No one dared to tell him; when the Ogreſs, all enraged to ſee what had happened, threw herſelf head foremoſt in the tub, and was inſtantly devoured by the creatures ſhe had put in it to deſtroy others.

The King could not chuſe but being very ſorry, for ſhe was his mother; but he ſoon comforted him with his beautiful wife, and his two pretty children.—And after all things were ſettled, he well rewarded the Clerk of the Kitchen for his humanity and compaſſion.

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The MORAL.

TO get a husband rich, genteel, and gay,
Of humour ſweet, ſome time to ſtay,
Is natural enough it's true;
But then to wait an hundred years,
And all the while aſleep, appears
A thing entirely new.
Now at this time of day
Not one of all the ſex we ſee
Sleep with ſuch ſound tranquility:
But yet this fable ſeems to let us know,
That very often Hymen's bliſs is ſweet,
Altho' ſome tedious obſtacles they meet
Which makes us from them a long time to ſtay,
Are not leſs happy for approaching ſlow,
And that we nothing loſe by ſuch delay.
But warm'd by nature's lambent fires,
The ſex ſo ardently aſpires, (brace
Of this bleſt ſtate the ſacred Joys to em-
And with ſuch earneſt heart purſue 'em,
I've not the will, I muſt confeſs,
Nor yet the power or fine addreſs,
To preach this Moral to 'em.

FINIS.